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ACTION MEMORANDUM
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CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 24 1989

TO: P - Mr. Kimmitt
FROM: EAP - William Clark, Jr., Acting *cc*
SUBJECT: Request for Presidential Aircraft for the Visit
of PRC Chairman of the National People's Congress
Wan Li

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to send the attached memorandum recommending the use
of a Presidential aircraft for the May 21-31 visit to the US of
Wan Li, PRC Politburo member and Chairman of the National
People's Congress.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Wan Li will visit the US as the guest of Vice President Quayle following his official visit to Canada. A leading figure in China's reform program, Wan is close to China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and is a respected member of China's "old guard." Wan has long known the President personally, was one of his principal hosts during his 1985 Vice Presidential visit to the PRC, and attended the lunch given by Deng during the President's February visit. At that time, the President told the PRC President Yang Shangkun that though the Vice President would officially be Wan Li's host, "on a personal basis I want him to know that I will be his host too."

Since Wan Li is an old friend of the President and will be the highest ranking PRC leader to visit the US this year, his visit has special significance. In addition, Wan will arrive in the US a few days after the completion of Soviet President Gorbachev's trip to China. As a result, his visit will have importance as well as a symbol of the good state of US-PRC relations. Wan will enter the US on May 21 at Buffalo for a trip of about ten days to include Indianapolis, Orlando, and New York in addition to Washington.

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DECL:OADR

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: IZENBERG, IVAN
Date: 07/25/94
Case ID: 9204199

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Provision of a Presidential aircraft has been customary for the domestic travel of the most senior PRC visitors to the US. The PRC has provided comparable treatment for senior US visitors to China. Use of a Presidential aircraft for Wan's travel in the US will substantially enhance the purposes of his visit.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached memorandum be sent to the White House recommending the use of a Presidential aircraft during the visit by Wan Li.

Approve RMK

Disapprove _____

3/10/89

Drafted: EAP/CM:BEuser ^{SE}
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